

The Better Way

Volume XXXX, Issue 4

January 26, 2025

SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST

Physical Address:
1327 Spring Cypress Rd.
Spring, TX 77373

Mailing Address:
25403 Lancewood Dr.
Spring, TX 77373

Office: 281-353-2707
springcoc@gmail.com
www.churchesofchrist.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.
Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Afternoon Worship.....1:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.
(via Zoom Meetings)

ELDERS

David P. Brown
Ken Cohn
John West

DEACONS

Bret Bailey
J. D. Gunter
Eric Paluka

EVANGELIST

David P. Brown

SECRETARY

Sonya West

SOPHISTS, ANCIENT, AND MODERN

Guy N. Woods

(via *Gospel Advocate*, August 13, 1970)

Solomon, favored son of David, and Israel's brilliant third monarch, marvelously endowed with a degree of divine wisdom far above that of any other mere man of his day or any other day, was thus enabled to exhibit singular insight in that persistent characteristic of men to repeat, with great regularity, the frailties and follies of the generations which preceded them. Said he:

The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us (Ecc. 1:8-10).

This observation of the wise man is inspiration's way of saying what has become axiomatic with us that, "History repeats itself."

In the third century before Christ, in Athens, Greece, a group of young philosophers broke away from their fellow "lovers-of-truth," rejected the basic tenets of Socrates and Plato, and called themselves Sophists. Ostensibly, the movement began with the announced intent to influence audiences and to direct them into proper courses of conduct;—aims entirely laudable and right; but, the methods and means resorted to involved the renunciation of those standards of right to which they had formerly adhered. They thus repudiated their earlier methods of arriving at truth, and argued that it was proper to appeal to prejudice, and to self-interest, in order to influence those to whom their messages were directed.

They sought to justify such an appeal on the ground that there is really no such thing as basic and fundamental truth; and they urged that the only recognizable standard is the judgment of the many. With them, the majority is right, those opposed to the views and acts of the majority, wrong. Socrates denounced these departures and argued for the maintenance of the moral standards formerly characterizing them; Plato urged that men ought to utilize reason in the pursuit of right rather than the prejudiced opinions of men. Aristotle, influenced by Plato's writings, developed a system of reasoning which we designate by the broad phrase, "rules of logic." For many centuries, by utilizing these rules men have been able to expose error, and to demonstrate truth. Our Lord, in His conflicts with the Herodians, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees, often used, with irresistible force, a logical approach, and with devastating results, an example of which may be seen in Matthew 22:15-46.

Throughout man's long and often rebellious history, his nearness to his Creator has been determined by the extent to which he was willing

to adhere to the basic principles of truth set out in the Scriptures. So long as we regard the inspired writings as the total, final, and all-sufficient revelation from God we have a standard of conduct which keeps us decent and pure; and, when we abandon them, *as such*, the degradation resulting quickly appears.

It should greatly alarm all genuine lovers of truth that both premises—the infallibility of the Scriptures *and* logical approach to them—are today being called in question by a new breed of Sophists not from *without*, but from *within*, the church! Not long ago, one delivered himself thus in his church bulletin:

Sometime between the time Isaiah said it and a certain person in Washington made it a modern cliché, I lost my faith in the basic implication of “Come now, and let us reason together.” It is not that I disbelieve discussions are good or that they can be fruitful. What I have come to question is our conclusion that man is primarily a rational being. The idea has long been a part of our religious heritage: John Locke, the English philosopher, bequeathed it to A. Campbell, who in turn willed it to later generations. It has been repeated so often that we have all believed it to be true.

Too bad that so many of us have so long been misled by the views of Isaiah, John Locke and Alexander Campbell! It appears that our Lord and the apostles believed in the “basic implication” of “Come now, and let us reason together” (Isa. 1:18), also. Does our liberal brother feel that they, too, were deceived?

The truth, is, men who pen such statements no longer regard, as relevant, the ancient writings, and thus feel no loyalty to their affirmations. A college professor is quoted as having recently said,

These kids are not interested in your worn-out sermons. They want to hear about sex. They want to discuss the ethics of abortion. They want to know about the pill. They want to know about the intermarriage with the negro. These kids are not like the kids when you were teaching college courses. They want some straight answers and I give them what they ask for.

There are, of course, times and places for enlightened discussion of all proper matters; but, we seriously question whether any of the foregoing subjects are in order in a class of unmarried “college kids.” All they need to learn from this college professor about sex is set out in the following statement from Paul: “**Flee**

fornication” (1 Cor. 6:18). What possible reason could be advanced why unmarried “kids” in a Christian college should “discuss the ethics of abortion”? This, too (aside from medico-legal considerations which could not possibly be any concern of unmarried “kids”), is easily settled; in the words of our Lord: “**Do not kill**” (Mark 10:19). They want to know about the “pill.” Why? Why? Of what business is it theirs? Is this professor implying that it is in order to provide unmarried “kids” with information regarding the “pill”? This writer does not believe that it is proper for college professors to discuss such themes under such circumstances. Moreover, we doubt that the “kids” are as much interested in hearing these things, as this “professor” is in presenting them! We are made to wonder if Christian parents make the great sacrifices involved in “Christian” education, in order to have them learn the details of sex, the “ethics of abortion,” methods of avoiding conception and pregnancy, and the propriety of intermarriage!

“Worn-out sermons!” Sermons do not really wear out. Occasionally, however, there are those who become tired of the truth embodied in them and inveigh at the container bearing the truth. But, if the drink no longer satisfies, why blame the cup? Another liberal brother, less restrained, frankly confessed that he could, to use his very words, “go outside and puke after hearing old traditional church of Christ sermons on First Principles, Baptism, the New Testament church, etc,” and he further declared that he did not believe in home Bible studies, because (said he), “I don’t believe in trying to convert Christians from one denomination over to another!”

Such characters have, of course, lost their faith in the basic tenets of the Restoration Movement, and are chiefly concerned in social welfare, rather than a religion that redeems and saves. They are saying, along with liberal denominational writers, that “we are rethinking the structures through which we minister to young people so as to give religion some relevance,” and “the function of the church now is not to Christianize humanity, but to humanize Christianity.” Those who have adopted this philosophy, like the ancient Sophists, operate on the premise that the end justifies the means; and since the “end” is of their own devising, it is not surprising that they choose their own “means.” Such concepts lead to talk about civil rights, abortion, the “pill,” intermarriage, protest

(Continued on back page)

Spring Church Of Christ

Contending For The Faith Lectureship



Things Helpful To Becoming & Being A Christian

February 22, 2025

9:00 AM: *Integrity* (Psalms 26) – Jonathan West

10:00 AM: *Ahab, The Accuser* (1 Kings 16:29-33) – Jack Stephens

11:00 AM: *Courage* (Psalms 27) – Jose Gamez

LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE SPRING CONGREGATION

1:30 PM: *Kinds Of Fear* – Bruce Stulting

2:30 PM: *Let Brotherly Love Continue* (Hebrews 13:1) – Eric Paluka

3:30 PM: *OPEN FORUM* (All speakers)

LECTURESHIP DIRECTOR: David P. Brown

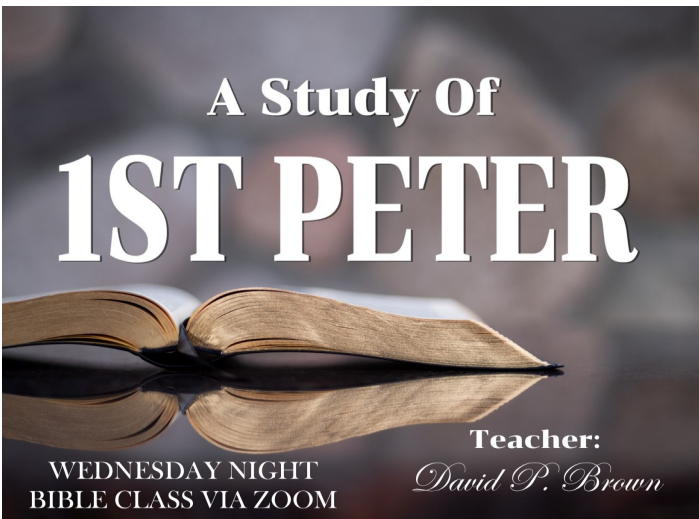
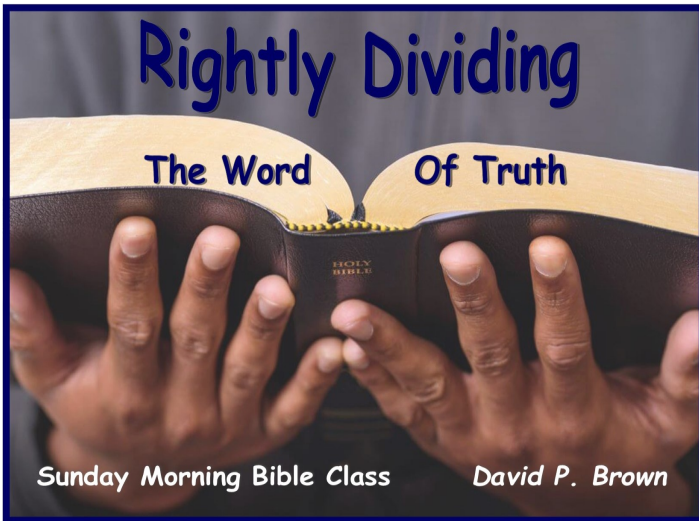
ELDERS: David P. Brown, Kenneth D. Cohn, John West

1327 Spring Cypress Road Spring, TX 77373 ~ (281) 353-2707
springcoc@gmail.com

LIVE VIEWING @ www.churchesofchrist.com

marches, and the like, rather than faith in God's word, and obedience to His expressed will. It would be well for those thus motivated to read the words of Paul, the apostle, to a *young man*: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12). "Flee also youthful lusts" (2 Tim. 2:22). "Avoid profane and vain babblings." (1 Tim. 6: 20.) "Continue thou in the things which thou has learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them" (1 Tim. 4:12-16).~

Deceased



TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Who said to whom: "Do thyself no harm: for we are all here?"

Answer to last week's question:

"Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews"; John 19:19

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025

Announcements J.D. Gunter
Scripture Reading Steven Johnson
Genesis 6:9-12

Song Leader Bret Bailey
Prayer David Brown/Stephen Cohn (AM)
 TBA Singing Service (PM)

Speaker Eric Paluka

Lord's Table (AM) *(Mark 15:15-20)*

Joshua West Gary Blasingame
 Stephen Cohn J.D. Gunter

Lord's Table (PM)

Andrew Paluka Steven Johnson

Audio/Video Monitor Joshua West
Camera/Door Monitor Bret Bailey

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025

(via Zoom Meeting)

Announcements Bret Bailey
Speaker Eric Paluka
Bible Class Teacher David Brown

FOR JANUARY

Prepare Communion Bailey
Lock Buildings Blasingame
Prepare Bulletin Board West

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Oxendine Family, Edith Young, Cynthia Jackson, Zack Nero, Glenn Kryszak, Barbara Perkins, April McCain, Gayle Barnett, Noah & Glenda Hackworth, Tania Turcios, Robbie Kirby, Debbie Brannon, Charles & Ann Nero, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Orlinda Chumbley, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Today:** Monthly meal
- **Saturday, February 22th:** Spring *CFTF* lectureship.
- **Sunday, February 23rd:** Monthly meal
- **Tuesday, March 25th:** Ladies' Bible Class.